SOUND TRANSIT
LINK LIGHT RAIL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SATELLITE FACILITY
DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

SOUNDTRANSIT

Description of proposal:
Sound Transit (the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority) is issuing this notice to advise the public, tribes and agencies that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to evaluate the Link Light Rail Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF) project. Sound Transit is the lead agency under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is the lead federal agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Together, the agencies will prepare a combined SEPA/NEPA EIS.

Sound Transit is implementing a system-wide expansion of its Link light rail transit service as part of the Sound Transit 2 (ST2) Plan of transit investments approved by the voters in 2008. To provide the service required by the ST2 Plan, Sound Transit will have to increase its light rail vehicle fleet to approximately 180 vehicles by 2023. Its existing light rail operations and maintenance facility (OMF), located on a 25-acre site south of South Forest Street and west of Airport Way in the industrial area south of Downtown Seattle, is configured to serve up to 104 vehicles.

The project's purpose is to enable Sound Transit to meet the maintenance and storage needs of the expanded fleet of light rail vehicles identified in the ST2 Plan. ST2's vehicle acquisition and delivery schedule requires additional capacity to be operational by the end of 2020. The OMSF project will:

- Accommodate expansion of the Link system to Lynnwood, Overlake and South King County (Kent or Des Moines);
- Provide efficient and reliable light rail service and minimize system operating costs; and
- Support regional long-range plans, including the Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040 plans, and Sound Transit's Regional Transit Long-Range Plan.

The project is needed because the existing OMF site cannot store, maintain, or deploy the vehicles associated with the expanded service called for in the ST2 Plan. Sound Transit cannot provide reliable service without adequate maintenance facility capacity. Approximately 180 vehicles are needed for the ST2 expansion; the existing OMF can store only 104 vehicles. Therefore, to implement ST2 the Link system will require more storage area and greater capacity for necessary service, maintenance, and inspection functions. Moreover, the storage and

maintenance facility must be sited to support efficient and reliable operations and deployment of vehicles to serve the entire Link system.

Potential Alternatives:
Sound Transit and FTA are considering several alternatives for study in the EIS. Potentially viable sites that meet minimum requirements of size, configuration, proximity to the light rail system, and operational feasibility have been identified along the Lynnwood Link Extension and in the East Link Corridor. FTA and Sound Transit invite comments on these preliminary alternatives; public and agency input received during the scoping period will help FTA and Sound Transit develop a range of reasonable alternatives to evaluate in the Draft EIS.

Lynnwood Link Corridor. One potential site at 52nd Ave and SW 208th St., north of I-5 and east of 52nd Ave W/Cedar Valley Road in Lynnwood. It is located along all of the proposed Lynnwood Link alignments being evaluated in the Lynnwood Link Extension Draft EIS.

East Link Corridor. Four potential sites located on the East Link alignment in Bellevue: 1) between the BNSF railway corridor on the west and 120th Ave. NE on the east, south of SR 520 and north of NE 12th St.; 2) south of SR 520 and north of Northup Way/NE 20th St., east of 130th Ave. NE and west of 140th Ave. NE; 3) East of 140th Ave. NE, between NE 20th St. and NE 24th St., and southeast of SR 520; and 4) west of 130th Ave. NE, east of 124th Ave. NE, and south of Northup Way.

No-Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative will provide a baseline against which to measure impacts of the action alternatives. It includes the existing transportation system plus the transportation improvements included in PSRC's Transportation Improvement Program.

Proponent: Sound Transit

Location of proposal: The proposed project may be located in the city of Lynnwood or Bellevue in Snohomish and King counties, depending on which site is ultimately selected.

Lead agency: Sound Transit (FTA is lead agency for NEPA review)

EIS Required. The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared.

The lead agency has identified the following areas for possible discussion in the EIS: Transportation, land use, economic activity and development potential, land acquisition and displacements, park and recreation resources, historic and cultural resources, visual and aesthetic qualities, air quality (including Greenhouse Gas Emissions), noise and vibration, energy use,

hazardous materials, construction impacts, safety and security, public utilities and services, water resources, geology and soils, cumulative effects, and ecosystems, including threatened and endangered species. The scoping process may result in a narrower scope of elements analyzed in the EIS.

Scoping. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS, including the proposed range of alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Two public scoping meetings and one agency scoping meeting are scheduled. The method and deadline for providing comments is as follows:

Comment Deadline: October 22, 2012

Comment Online: www.soundtransit.org/OMSF

Mail: Kent Hale, Sound Transit, OMSF
401 S Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104

E-mail: omsf@soundtransit.org

At a public meeting:

1. October 8, 2012, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Highland Community Center
14224 Bel-Red Road
Bellevue, WA

2. October 11, 2012, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Lynnwood Convention Center
3711 196th St. SW
Lynnwood, WA

3. (Agency and Tribal Meeting)
October 9, 2012, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Sound Transit (Union Station, Ruth Fisher Boardroom)
401 S. Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104.

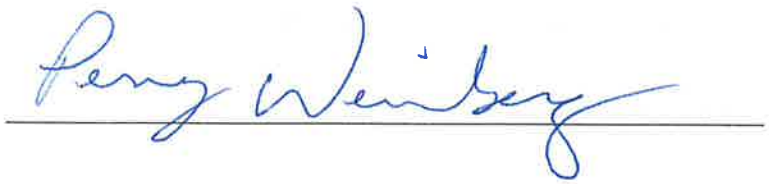
Responsible official: Perry Weinberg

Position/title: Director, Environmental Affairs and Sustainability Phone: 206-689-4931

Address: 401 S. Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98104

Additional Information: An Environmental Scoping Information Report, which presents more detail on the project, alternatives under consideration, topics for discussion in the EIS, and the project Purpose and Need Statement is available at www.soundtransit.org/OMSF or can be obtained by calling Luke Lamon at 206-903-7469 or omsf@soundtransit.org.

For more information on the scoping process, contact Kent Hale, Senior Environmental Planner, at 206-398-5103. To request accommodations for persons with disabilities, call 1-800-201-4900 / TTY Relay: 711 or e-mail accessibility@soundtransit.org. Non-English translation services and accessible formats are available by request with sufficient notice by calling 1-800-823-9230.

Date: 9/19/2012 Signature 

Perry Weinberg, Director
Office of Environmental Affairs and Sustainability
SEPA Responsible Official